

Main Ideas

Traditional optimal experimental design (OED) methods are blind to misspecification in the hyperparameters of the inverse problem. Robust OED methods aim to address this, but have been

- limited to linear inverse problems, or
- limited to low-dimensional problems.

In order to solve robust OED problems for **infinite-dimensional nonlinear** Bayesian inverse problems governed by PDEs, we propose a formulation with

- a **budget-constrained probabilistic encoding** of the sensor locations, and
- adjoint-based **eigenvalue sensitivity** techniques for differentiation.

Worst-Case Robust OED Formulation

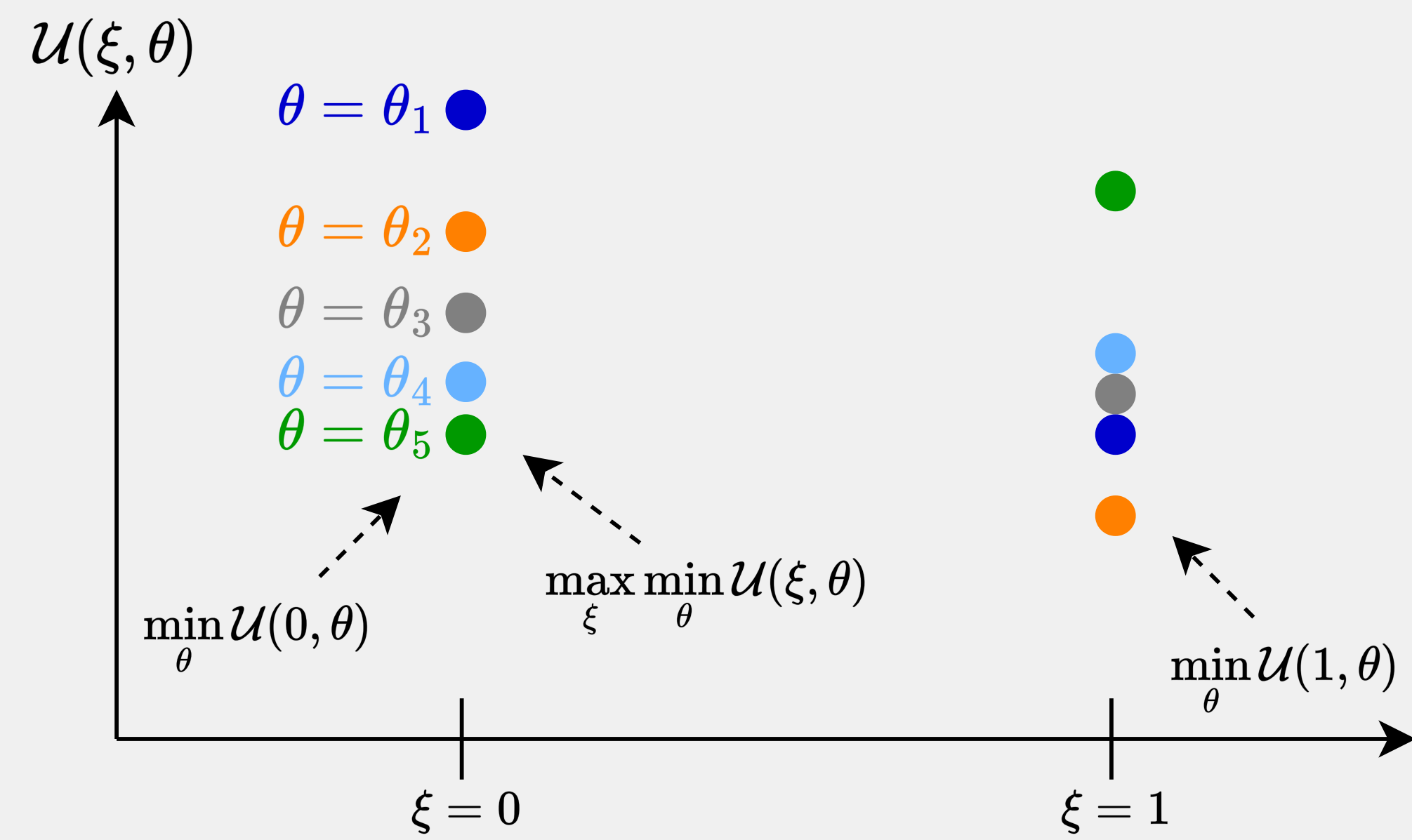
Consider the set of candidate sensor locations $\mathcal{S} = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{N_d}\}$, and let $N_b \ll N_d$ be the budget constraint on the number of sensors. Let $\xi \in \{0, 1\}^{N_d}$ be a binary encoding of the observational configuration such that ξ_i determines whether s_i is active, and let $\theta \in \Theta$ be the uncertain parameter. The ROED problem is defined as the optimization problem

$$\max_{\xi \in \mathcal{S}(N_b)} \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{U}(\xi, \theta),$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}(N_b) = \left\{ \xi \in \{0, 1\}^{N_d} : |\xi| = N_b \right\},$$

and the utility (objective) \mathcal{U} is chosen to quantify the quality of the design.



Budget-Constrained Probabilistic Robust OED

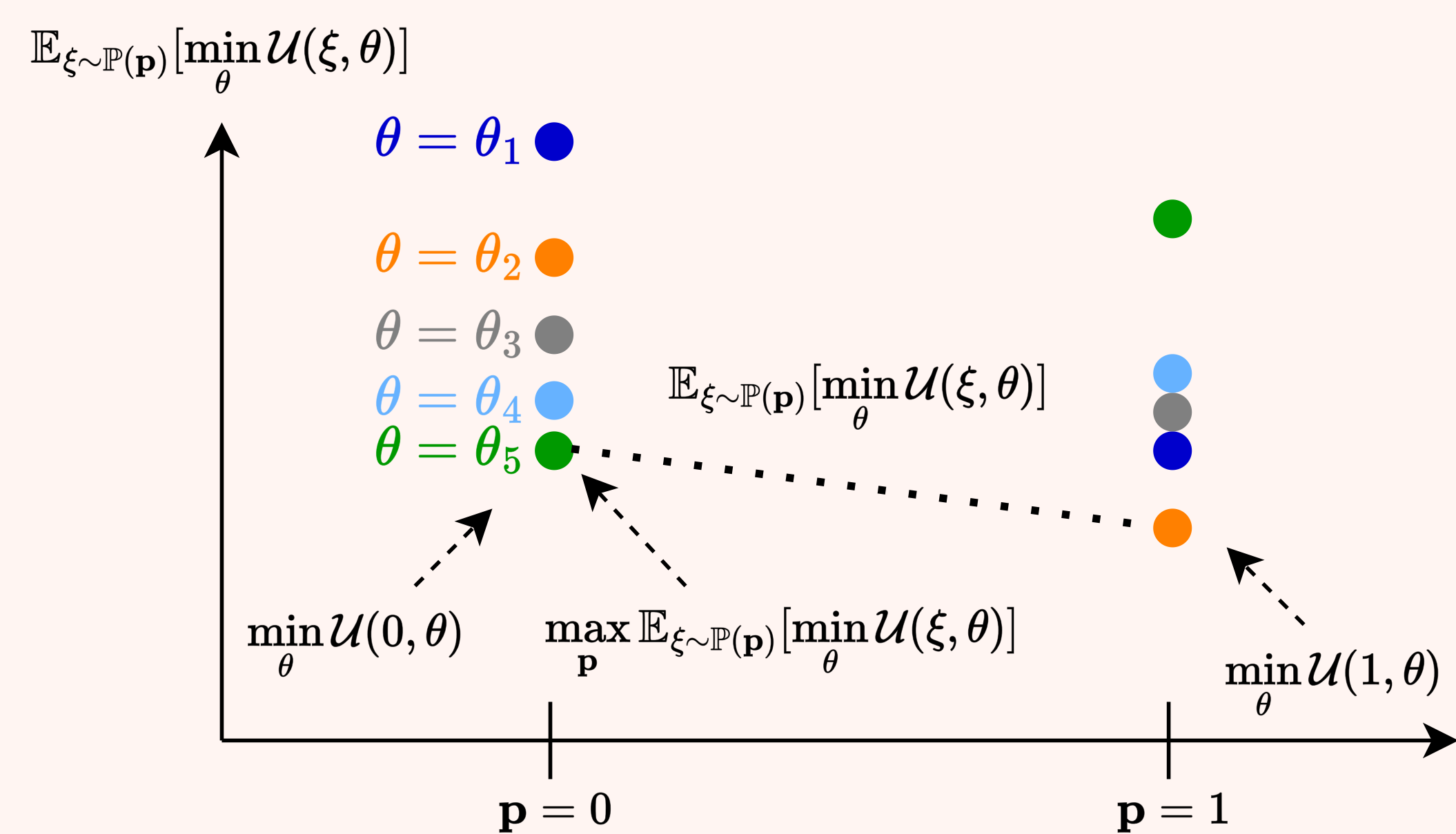
Assume that ξ is a random variable endowed with the **conditional Bernoulli distribution** $\mathbb{P}(\xi|\mathbf{p}, |\xi| = N_b)$. Then, the **budget-constrained** probabilistic robust OED problem replaces the classical robust OED formulation with the following policy optimization problem:

$$\max_{\mathbf{p} \in [0, 1]^{N_d}} \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{p}) := \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim \mathbb{P}(\xi|\mathbf{p}, |\xi|=N_b)} \left[\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{U}(\xi, \theta) \right].$$

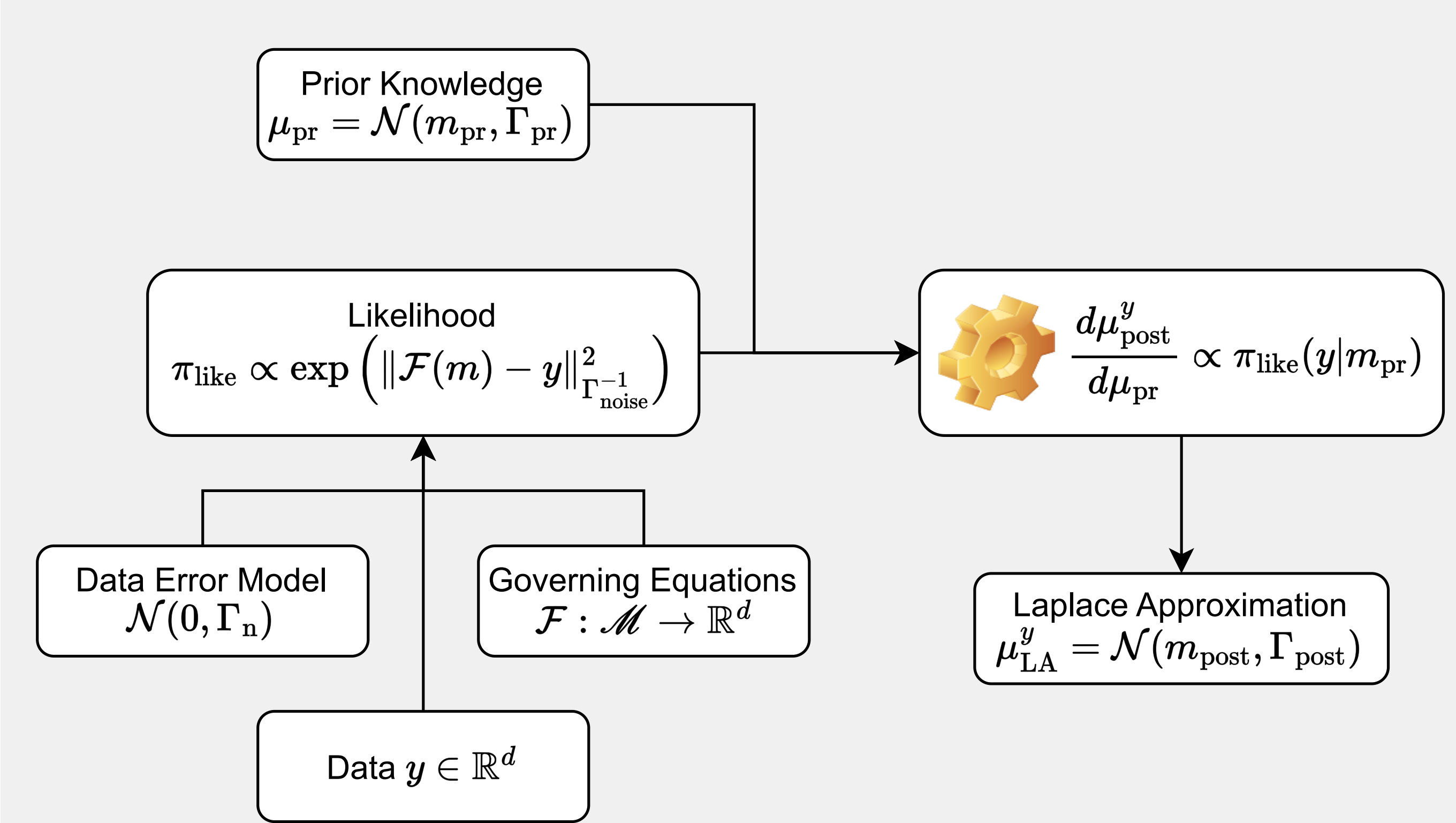
We denote \mathcal{U} as the stochastic objective. Furthermore,

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{U}(\mathbf{p}) \approx \frac{1}{N_{\text{ens}}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{\text{ens}}} \left[\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{U}(\xi[k], \theta) \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \log \mathbb{P}(\xi[k]|\mathbf{p}, |\xi|=N_b) \right].$$

Critically, this does not require design gradients of \mathcal{U} ! Nevertheless, does require \mathcal{U}_{θ} .



PDE-Constrained Nonlinear Bayesian Inverse Problems



The forward model is governed by the PDE: Given $m \in \mathcal{M}$, find $u \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $a(u, m, p) = 0$ for all $p \in \mathcal{V}$. Furthermore, we employ the **Laplace approximation** to the posterior μ_{LA}^y .

Sample Averaged Expected Information Gain (EIG)

We employ a sample-averaged approximation of the EIG as our utility:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{D}_{\text{KL}} &:= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{y}} [D_{\text{KL}}(\mu_{\text{post}}^{\mathbf{y}} \| \mu_{\text{pr}})] \\ &\approx \frac{1}{N_{\text{SAA}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{SAA}}} D_{\text{KL}}(\mu_{\text{post}}^{y_i} \| \mu_{\text{pr}}) \\ &\approx \frac{1}{N_{\text{SAA}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{SAA}}} \frac{1}{2} \left[\log \det(\mathcal{I} + \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{m}}^i) - \text{tr}(\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{m}}^i [\mathcal{I} + \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{m}}^i]^{-1}) + \|m_{\text{post}}^i - m_{\text{pr}}\|_{\mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{-1}}^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

where we have assumed a **Laplace approximation** to the posterior measure and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{m}} = \mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{1/2} \mathcal{H}_{\text{m}} \mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{1/2}$. Since $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{m}}$ is typically low-rank, we furthermore write:

$$\overline{D}_{\text{KL}}^{(r)}(\xi, \theta) = \frac{1}{2N_{\text{SAA}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{SAA}}} \left[\sum_{n=1}^r \left[\log(1 + \lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)) - \frac{\lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)}{1 + \lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)} \right] + \|m_{\text{post}}^i(\xi, \theta) - m_{\text{pr}}\|_{\mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{-1}}^2 \right].$$

Adjoint-Based Eigenvalue Sensitivity Techniques

The forward model is governed by the PDE: Given $m \in \mathcal{M}$, find $u \in \mathcal{U}$ such that $a(u, m, p) = 0$ for all $p \in \mathcal{V}$.

It can be demonstrated that $(\mathcal{H}_{\text{m}}, \{\lambda_n, \psi_n\}_{n=1}^r)$ obey the eigenproblem constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{m}} \psi_n \rangle &= \lambda_n \langle \phi, \psi_n \rangle_{\mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{-1}}, & \forall \phi \in \mathcal{V}, \forall n = 1, \dots, r, \\ \langle \psi_n, \psi_n \rangle_{\mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{-1}} &= 1, & \forall n = 1, \dots, r, \end{aligned}$$

and \mathcal{H}_{m} has the following system dictating its action

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{m}}(m)(\psi_n, \phi) = \langle \phi, a_{mp}(u, m, p) \hat{p} \rangle,$$

with state and adjoint constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{p}, a_p(u, m, p) \rangle &= 0, & \forall \hat{p} \in \mathcal{V}, \\ \langle \tilde{u}, a_u(u, m, p) \rangle + \langle \tilde{u}, \mathcal{Q}^* \hat{\Gamma}_n^\dagger(\xi, \theta)(y - \mathcal{Q}u) \rangle &= 0, & \forall \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{U}, \end{aligned}$$

and incremental state and adjoint constraints for $n = 1, \dots, r$:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{p}, a_{pu}(u, m, p) \hat{u}_n \rangle + \langle \hat{p}, a_{pm}(u, m, p) \psi_n \rangle &= 0, & \forall \hat{p} \in \mathcal{V}, \\ \langle \tilde{u}, a_{up}(u, m, p) \hat{p}_n \rangle + \langle \tilde{u}, \mathcal{Q}^* \hat{\Gamma}_n^\dagger(\xi, \theta) \mathcal{Q} \hat{u}_n \rangle &= 0, & \forall \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{U}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, after fixing the MAP estimate in ξ and θ , we define the utility

$$\mathcal{U} := \frac{1}{2N_{\text{SAA}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{SAA}}} \left[\sum_{n=1}^r \left[\log(1 + \lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)) - \frac{\lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)}{1 + \lambda_n^i(\xi, \theta)} \right] + \|m_{\text{post}}^i(\xi^{\text{all}}, \bar{\theta}) - m_{\text{pr}}\|_{\mathcal{C}_{\text{pr}}^{-1}}^2 \right].$$

We can differentiate through this using a formal Lagrangian approach.

Numerical Experiments

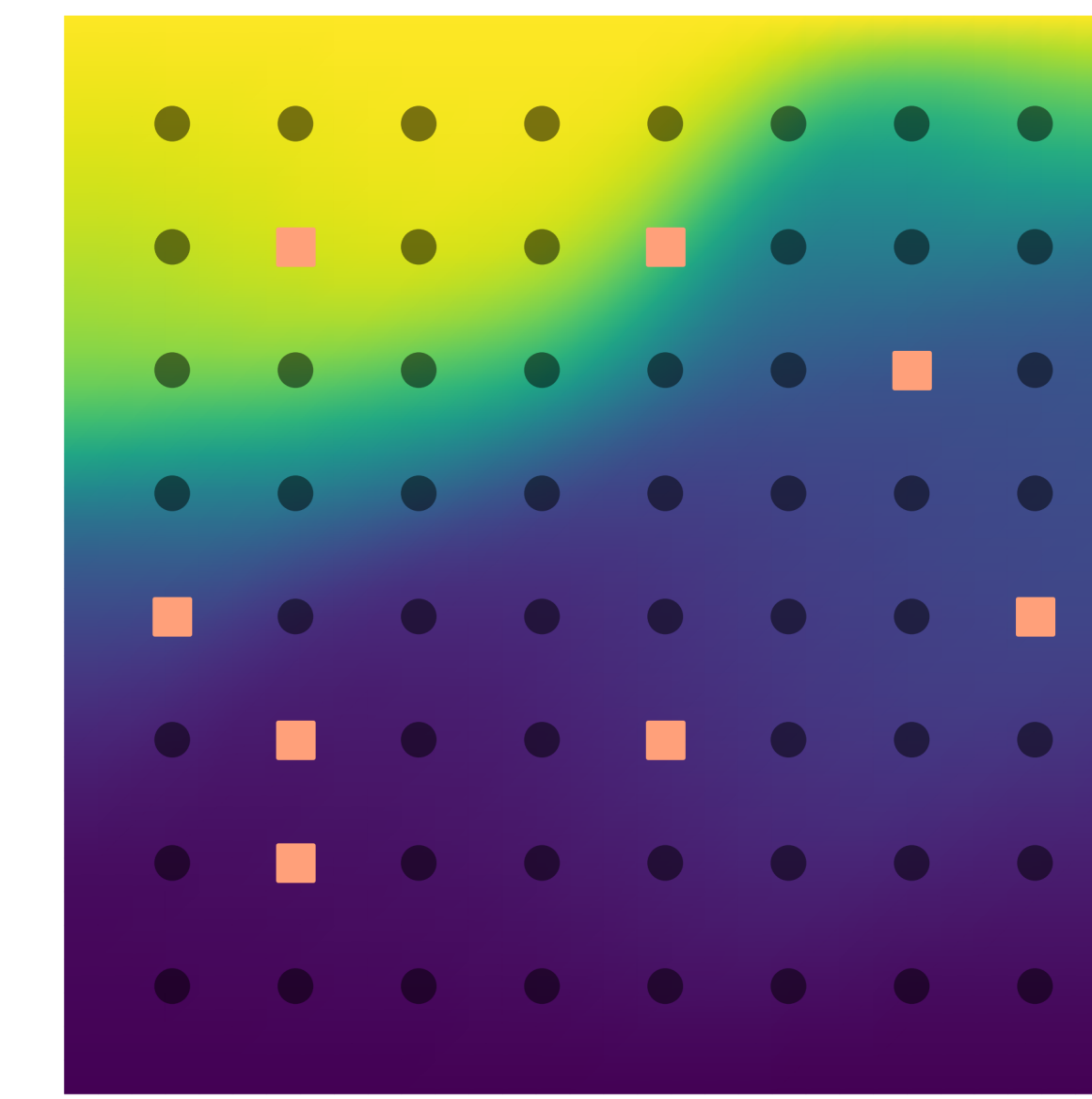
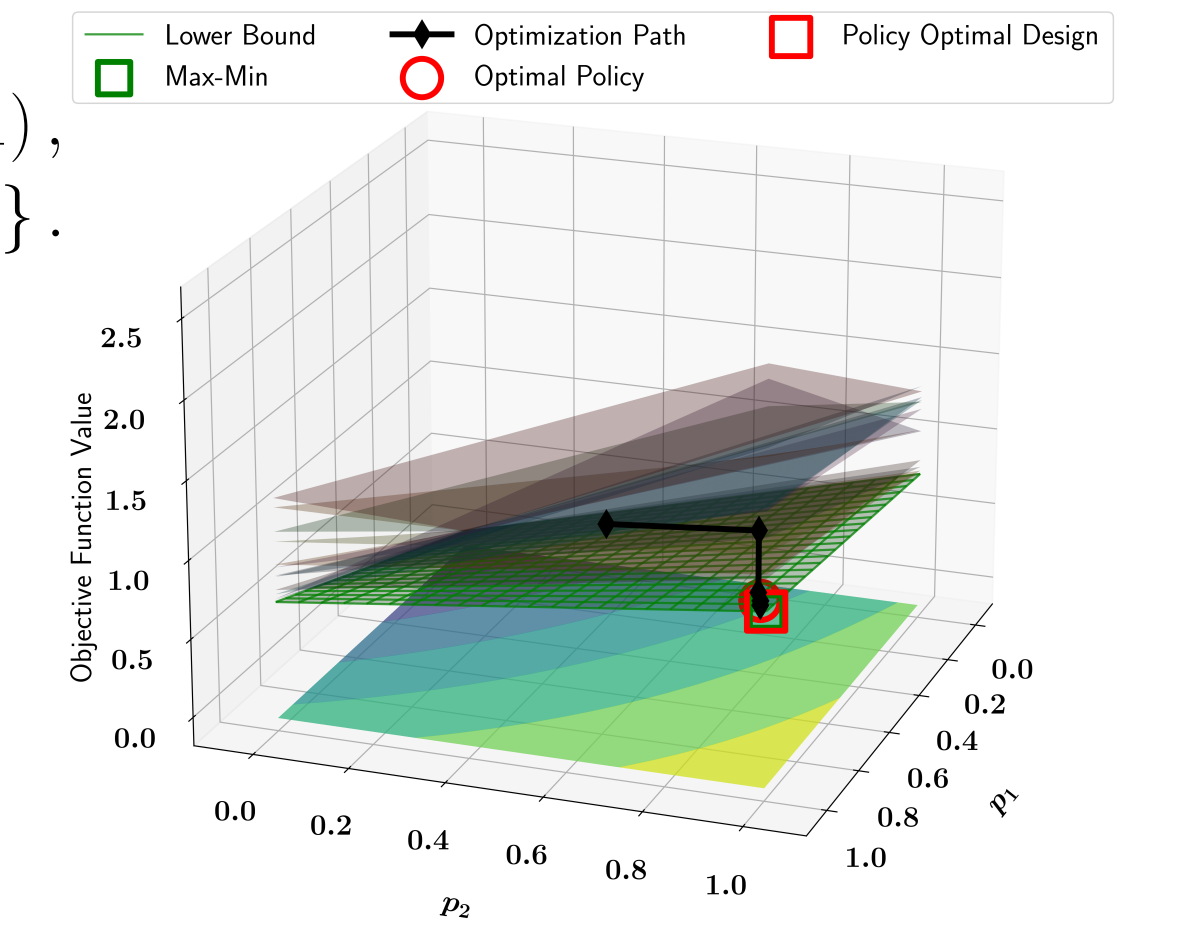
$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \cdot (\exp(m) \nabla u) &= 0 & \text{in } \Omega := (0, 1)^2, \\ \exp(m) \nabla u \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_N := \{0, 1\} \times (0, 1), \\ u &= g & \text{on } \Gamma_D := (0, 1) \times \{0, 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

and

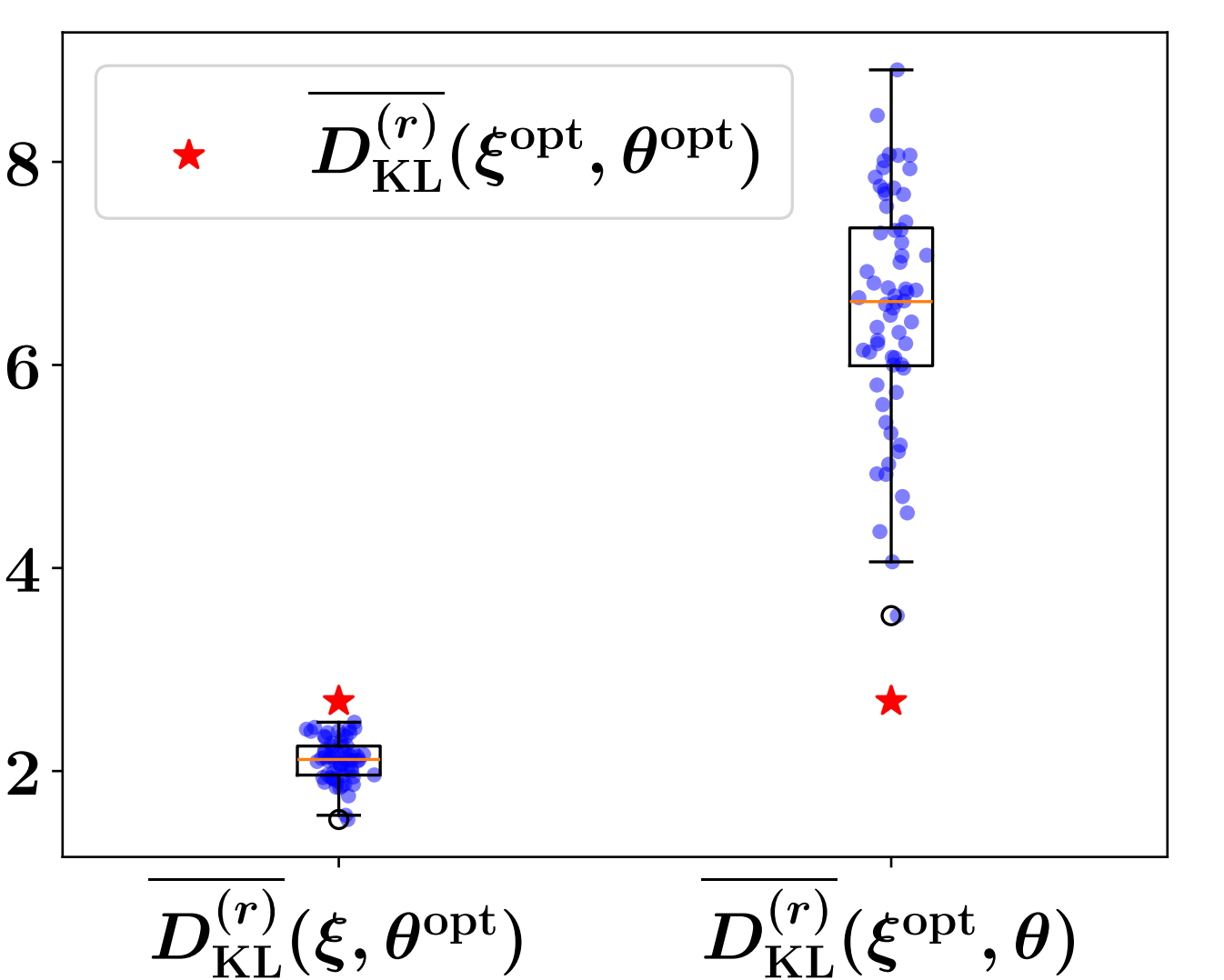
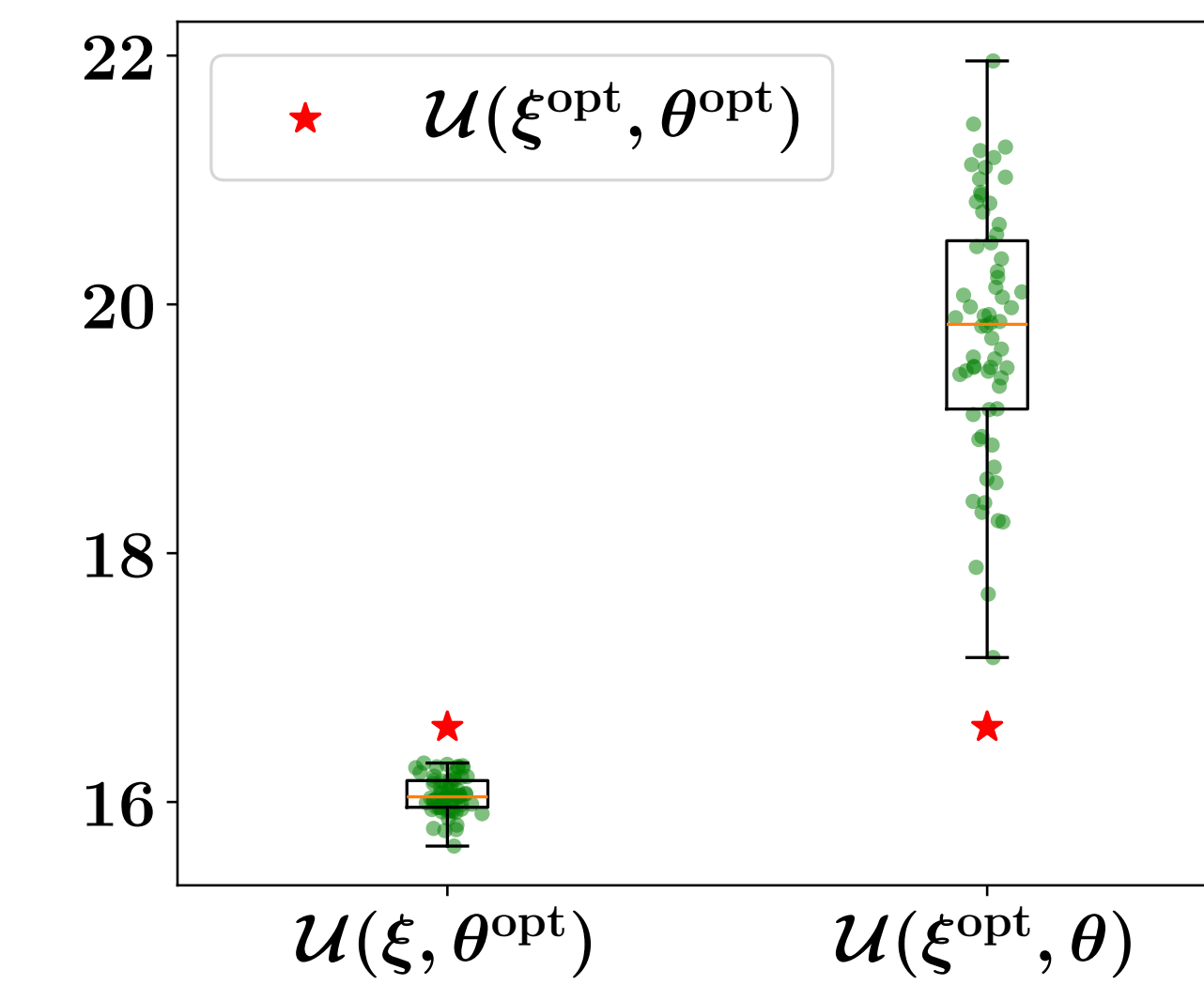
$$[\Gamma_n(\theta)]_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sigma_i^2 & \text{if } i = j \\ \sigma_i \sigma_j \rho_{ij}(\ell_1, \ell_2) & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases},$$

with

$$\theta_i = \begin{cases} \ell_1 & \text{if } i \leq N_d \\ \ell_2 & \text{if } i = N_d + 1, \\ & \ell_2 & \text{if } i = N_d + 2 \end{cases}$$

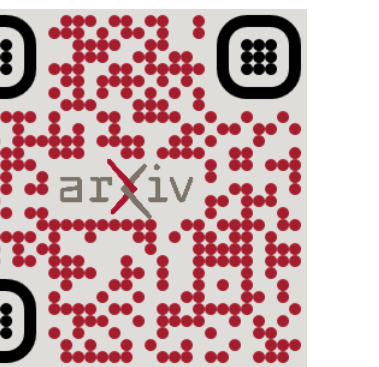


0.17	0.31	0.50	0.29	0.74	0.66	0.31	0.39
0.45	0.29	0.37	0.30	0.41	0.64	0.66	0.55
0.61	0.38	0.75	0.70	0.61	0.73	0.73	0.74
0.56	0.70	0.27	0.35	0.72	0.27	0.79	0.71
0.68	0.66	0.42	0.34	0.74	0.59	0.33	0.60
0.66	0.52	0.50	0.25	0.84	0.34	0.28	0.30
0.27	0.39	0.45	0.50	0.45	0.31	0.48	0.28
0.34	0.33	0.14	0.23	0.17	0.58	0.00	0.25



References

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- Abhijit Chowdhary, Ahmed Attia, and Alen Alexanderian. Robust optimal design of large-scale bayesian nonlinear inverse problems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.09137*, 2024.
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